chooses to make an application to the FIPB and not to avail of the automatic route.

All proposals for investment public sector units as also for EOU/EPZ/ EHTP/STP units would qualify for automatic route subject to above parameters.

(c) The companies having foreign direct investment are subject to all Indian laws like domestic companies and therefore cannot abandon the ventures casually.

Meeting of Joint Committee of Management and Workers

*252. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Joint Committee of management and workers has not met for a long time;

(b) if so, the last date of holding such a Joint Committee;

(c) the reasons for the delay in holding such a Joint Committee meetings; and

(d) when the next meeting is likely to be convened by the management?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) to (d) There are three Joint Committees of Management and Workers. The meetings of these Joint Committees are held as per the requirements and at the convenience of the members belonging to trade unions, management of steel plants and their member organisations. The last meetings of each of these Committees were held as follows:

1.	National Joint Committee for Steel Industry (NJCS)	08.3.2000
2.	Production Productivity Committee (PPC)	16.6.1999
3.	Joint Committee on Safety, Health and Environment in the Steel Industry (JCSSI)	28.5.1999

Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has informed that two meetings of National Joint Committee for Steel Industry (NJCS) were fixed for 30.9.1999 and 1.2.2000. However, on the request of NJCS members, these meetings were postponed. Similarly, the meeting of Joint Committee of Safety, Health and Environment in the Steel Industry (JCSSI) which was scheduled on 29th September 1999 was postponed in view of elections to the Lok Sabha.

The next date of the meeting of NJCS has been fixed for 5.4.2000 and the dates of the next meetings of other two committees have not yet been fixed.

Exit Policy

*253. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with the adoption of hi-tech technology, WTO regime and globalisation of problem has been created of excess labour in the existing Indian Industry and this problem can be solved only through a viable exit policy or else Indian Industry will collapse; and

(b) whether Government have any plan to bring Exit Policy in the near future to make our Industry viable and internationally competitive?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Trade Marks Bill

*254. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Trade Marks Bill provides for Appellate Board functioning from Delhi;

(b) if so, whether an aggrieved person will have to come to Delhi to file special leave petition; and

(c) the steps proposed to do away with such undue expenses and delays?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) The Trade Marks Act, 1999, provides for establishment of an Appellate Board known as the Intellectual Property Appellate Board to hear appeals against the decision of the Registrar. The Act also provides for setting up Benches in different locations. No decision about the location of the Apellate Board and its Benches has been taken by the Government. Since the Benches shall sit at such places as the Government, may by notification in the Official Gazette, notify, there will be no undue expenses and delay for the litigants.